

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

November 6, 2013

Dr. Patrick Gallagher
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1000
Gaithersburg, MD 21899

Dear Dr. Gallagher,

I write in support of the application submitted by the University of Rochester in partnership with NY Photonics, a consortium of 100 companies, and the Rochester Institute of Technology for funding from the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia Program through the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This funding would support the New York Photonics Manufacturing Initiative, which will strengthen the nation's optics, photonics, and imaging manufacturers and make them more globally competitive.

Optics, Photonics, and Imaging (OPI) are broad fields that serve as key enabling technologies that are integral to countless applications and economic sectors. The field impacts numerous different market segments, such as energy, medicine, defense, and communications, which have a significant economic impact. Despite a steep decline of its manufacturing in the industry, New York State still leads the nation in OPI research, development, and manufacturing. More than 300 OPI companies are based in New York and manufacture \$6 billion in goods each year. The industry is bolstered by some of the leading OPI academic programs in the world and a highly skilled workforce shaped by industry giants like Kodak, Xerox, Bausch + Lomb, Corning, General Electric, and IBM. However, U.S. manufacturers face intense competition from foreign companies in nations that have invested heavily in OPI research and development and manufacturing.

The requested funding will be used to strengthen the nation's optics, photonics, and imaging manufacturers and make them more globally competitive. The New York Photonics Manufacturing Initiative would ensure a U.S. leadership position in OPI by strengthening collaborations both within New York State and across the nation, developing roadmaps that leverage existing efforts and those developed through the National Photonics Initiative, identifying barriers and technological challenges that limit growth. Additionally, the initiative would help to maximize opportunities for long-term precompetitive research and public-private partnerships, as well as for discovering improved methods for redeploying human and manufacturing infrastructure. With the New York Photonics Manufacturing Initiative, there is tremendous potential to eliminate barriers and accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in these fields to create jobs and grow our economy.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Andrew Usyk at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator